

## Myths About Wilbert Smith

Written by Grant Cameron  
Thursday, 06 August 2009 15:46 -

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### **Myth:** Smith was Intelligent but gullible

Not true as he was promoted in 1956 after the UFO project was closed down. Shows government confidence making him department head.

Smith was also a Consultant to NASA. In 1957 Smith sat on the coordinating committee of the international geophysical year.

**Myth:** He didn't head the UFO program. (The claim is it was part time, and that it was a personal project not connected to the government.)

However, in Oct. 1955 "You may know that I am the fellow who was in charge of the Canadian Government's Project Magnet, which was the official saucer study program."

C.P. Edwards writes at end of document "OK, go ahead with it and keep me informed."

The story that the Smith UFO work was unofficial and part-time was started in 1968 by Dr. Peter Millman in his introduction written for the Project magnet Report. Millman, however, had never read the Top Secret memo in Project magnet and was not cleared about anything that occurred in the project.

Because Smith had continued his UFO studies after 1954 as a personal private pursuit, Millman wrote in 68 that Smith's work was part time. The fact was that it was only part time after 1954.

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All government officials commenting on Project Magnet after that point, simply read the intro to the Project magnet report in the file, and quoted Millman about the whole effort being part time and Smith personal interest.

**Myth:** The Top secret memo should not have been Top Secret

Solandt indicated that Smith had just put Top Secret on his personal papers and that the document should have never been classified Top Secret.

Question is who classifies a document - the sender or the receiver?

Now let us assume that Smith was a bad boy and shouldn't have put Top Secret on the document. If that is so why was the document not released to the public till the late 1970s. Take it one step further. Why was it still classified Top Secret in September of 1969? Why was it not declassified as soon as it was received if it was not proper?

A review of the actual facts will show that even in 1969 the declassification to confidential was an accident. Something most people don't know.

The declassification memo is on this site under documents, but here is what it says. W. J. Wilson who wrote this memo is told to declassify the documents.

He states instead, "at no time should this be made available to the public," and the copy of the project magnet report in the file is the original, and it should "not be destroyed until such time as this subject has 'cooled off.'"

This declassification was being done in 1969 just as the Canadian and US governments were canceling their UFO investigations, and going to the people telling them there was nothing to the UFO phenomena.

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The declassification ordered by Dr. Peter Millman was by a man who had never read the Top Secret memo - sceptics don't have to read to come to a conclusion.

Dr. Peter Millman was at the National Research Council. He had been asked to take over the UFO files held by the Department of Transport, and the Department of Defense. Millman, a sceptic on UFOs, had agreed but stated he did not wish to have any classified material as a part of the files. He believed there was nothing to UFOs, and there was therefore no secrets to hide.

The files included the Top Secret memo which included the information obtained from the states that "flying saucers exist" and "it is the most highly classified item" in the United States. It also included the interim Project magnet report written up in 1952 which stated "there is a 90% probability that the objects are real, and a 60% probability that the objects are extraterrestrial."

Now instead of declassifying the Project Magnet files, as was requested by Sr. Peter Millman, and agreed upon by the Defense Research Board, Wilson decided to only lower the classification to "confidential," and to hint that the documents should be destroyed.

Asked about this memo years later, Dr. Millman told me that he had never read the Wilson memo. In reply to my question about the statements "should never be made available to the public," and destroying the document "when the subject has 'cooled off,'" Dr. Millman said "If you can understand all the statements made by top government officials, you are a better man than I am." Good answer!

**Myth:** How he died

Smith died of cancer of the lower bowel. People like Phil Klass were claiming a brain tumor. Some people inside NICAP were also spreading this story.

**Myth:** He had no access to Top Secret American information.

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However, the US Project Magnet clearly shows that the Americans were listening to him.

Admiral Knowles stated that Smith was dealing with top officials in the US government.

The Canadian Embassy documents clearly show that the Smith rewrite of the Major Keyhoe article on the Canadian UFO Program had gone to Dr. Vannevar Bush for approval.

Smith's oldest son states that his father had seen both the bodies and a crashed flying saucer outside of Washington. It is logical that top access would have been required to see these two objects.